

SALOON LICENSE

DRAWER 3

Adult - New Salem

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Abraham Lincoln Before 1860

New Salem Saloon License

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LIQUOR LICENSE.

Our readers, those who have had the opportunity to read the **Anti-Saloon League** and **Prohibition literature**, are aware of the fact that lying statements have been published by this irresponsible mob of falsifiers concerning **Abraham Lincoln's Liquor License**. We are now in possession of unimpeachable evidence to sustain the liquor dealers' side of the question, and will send by mail the following for 50 cts.:

"**ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SALOON LICENSE**" for framing. Size 12x14. An exact facsimile photographic copy from the records of the Licensing Court. Certified as true and correct by the Clerk of the Court. It states the prices he was allowed to charge for wine, whiskey, brandy, rum, etc.

Together with:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S DRAMSHOP BOND. This is the \$300 bond for **GOOD BEHAVIOR**, which he and his partner signed before the license was issued. He pledges himself not to sell intoxicating liquor to children, Indians or slaves, and to obey all the liquor laws of the state of Illinois. Most interesting.

Order by mail; 50 cts. a copy. Address "The Patriarch," 1320 Arcade Way, Seattle, Wash., or if living in the city of Seattle call at the Cigar Stand, at the N. W. corner of 4th and Pike St., Seattle.

Every liquor dealer in the states of Washington, Oregon, California or elsewhere should get a copy of this instrument and every truth loving man should read this. They can now be seen in many of the best saloons in Seattle.

The Patriarch, Seattle,

Sept 24, 1910.

Something Lincoln Could Not Get Today

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—It was down in a Greenwich Village speakeasy that I came across it. I was leaning against the bar, declaiming, with two congenial companions, against the evils of prohibition that made speakeasies so crowded—and expensive.

I raised my glass and drank slowly with my eyes shut and my head tilted back. Blissfully I opened my eyes and gazed at the row of bottles on the shelf above the mirror. Suddenly I stared with open mouth. There, over a friendly bottle of Holloway's gin, was a framed permit entitled "An Historic Document—Abraham Lincoln's Saloon License."

My mind groped: Lincoln . . . license . . . liquor . . .

I got it! Liberty! I dived for my coat hanging on a hook. From the pocket I pulled out my copy. There, on the outside cover, the somber face of Lincoln confronted me. I hurriedly turned the pages. An interview with Uncle Abe, by George Sylvester Viereck, entitled "An Appalling Crisis—What Would Lincoln . . . ?" Rapidly I read. Ah!—Prohibition.

I burst into a roar at the General Grant anecdote—the story about the man who, on complaining to Lincoln that General Grant drank whisky immoderately, was told by the Emancipator: "Well, just find out what particular kind he uses and I'll send a barrel to each of the other generals."

Again I glanced up at the writing on the wall.

Well, Lincoln ought to know what was good for his generals.

I managed to get the address and name of the company which made photostatic copies of Lincoln's permit. I had three made.

One I send to you as proof of my statements, the second I keep in my bedroom for inspiration, the third I hang in my wine cellar—for aspiration!—Edward R. Gleichenhaus.

A Senator Speaks

UNITED STATES SENATE, WASHINGTON, D. C.—I read George Sylvester Viereck's imaginative interview with Abraham Lincoln as presented in a recent number

of the Liberty Magazine. It is tremendously clever.

Many years ago, Sam Jones told me that he became very much irritated over the attitude of the newspaper reporters. He was holding a revival and was displeased by the newspaper reports.

On one occasion he called the boys to-

From Pennsylvania's Governor

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, HARRISBURG, PA

—It so happens that my attention was called to Mr. George Sylvester Viereck's article on Lincoln just after I had finished writing a speech along much the same line, which I delivered in Springfield on February 11.

I am inclosing a copy of that speech, which I think may be of interest to you. Needless to say, Mr. Viereck did a better job than I, but I think you will agree that our sentiments on the matter run fairly close together.

With all good wishes and much appreciation—Gifford Pinchot.

AN HISTORIC DOCUMENT Abraham Lincoln's Saloon License

Springfield, Monday, March 8th 1835

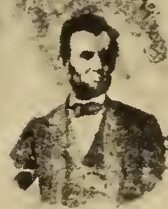
Ordered that William F. Berry in the name of "any
and all persons" have license to keep a saloon in Madison
St. between 12 months from the date and that they pay one
dollar in addition to the dollars heretofore paid for every
month. And that they be allowed the following rates, viz:—
French Brandy, per half pint 25
Apple Brandy, per half pint 18
Holland wine, per half pint 12
Domestic Gin, per half pint 12
Wine, per half pint 25
Rum, per half pint 18
Whisky, per half pint 12
Breakfast, Dinner or Supper 25
Lodging, per night 12
Horse, per night 24
Single Feed 12
Breakfast, Dinner or Supper for
Stage (Coach) Passengers 37
Who gave bond as required by law

This is a copy of a saloon license issued to Abraham Lincoln in 1833, one year before he was first elected
Governor of Illinois. Certified, C. E. Opper, Clerk Sangamon County Court, Springfield, Ill., April 25, 1908

Know all men by these presents:

We, William F. Berry, Abraham Lincoln and John, B. B. Green, are held and firmly bound unto the County Commissioners of Sangamon County in the full sum of three hundred dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents, sealed with our seal and dated this 6th day of March, A. D. 1833. Now the condition of this obligation is such that, whereas the said Berry and Lin-
coln has obtained a license from the County Commissioners Court to keep a saloon in the Town of New Salem, to be
in force one year. Now if the said Berry and Lincoln do the
of good behavior and observe all the laws of this State
relative to tavern keepers, then this obligation to be void, and
otherwise remain in full force.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
WILLIAM F. BERRY



gether and remonstrated with them. He said, "It isn't fair for you to take a sentence here, another one there, and then string them together as if it were a verbatim statement of my views on religion and sin. I could take quotations from the Bible, and if I applied them to you," he said to the reporters, "you would not like it."

"For instance, I could say to you, using Bible language: 'Judas departed, and went and hanged himself.' 'What he did, go thou and do likewise.' 'And what thou doest, do quickly!'"

I am sure you will enjoy this story, but I do not wish to make any unpleasant application of it. It is my opinion that by these quotations from Lincoln Mr. Viereck conveys exactly what would be Lincoln's philosophy as regards the present-day problems.

The article shows a prodigious amount of research. Mr. Viereck has not perverted Mr. Lincoln's thought, but has given a very clear picture of what Mr. Lincoln would be thinking about now.

Thank you for the privilege of reading this fascinating interview.—Royal S. Copeland.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1925.

LINCOLN KEPT A TAVERN

James Stookey, an Atchison barber, recently was called to Springfield, Ill., by the death of a relative.

While in that city, Mr. Stookey saw a copy of a license granted to Abraham Lincoln's tavern in New Salem, Ill., March 6, 1833, when Lincoln was 21 years old.

The license for a year cost \$7, and showed that William Berry was Lincoln's partner in the tavern business. The license also specified the following prices:

French brandy, pint, 25 cents.

Peach brandy, pint, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents.

Apple brandy, 12 cents.

Holland gin, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents.

Wine, 25 cents.

Rum, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents.

Whisky, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Lodging, 25 cents.

Three meals, each 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Horse lodging, 25 cents.

One feed for horse, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Breakfast, dinner and supper for stage coach passengers, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents a meal.

While Lincoln was campaigning for President, an Illinois man once stood up in a meeting, while Mr. Lincoln was speaking, and accused Lincoln of having been a dealer in liquor.

"Yes," said Mr. Lincoln, "and the gentleman interrupting was one of my best customers."

LINCOLN'S LICENSE TO CONDUCT TAVERN

Issued to Abraham Lincoln and William F. Berry Recorded in the County Clerk's Office at
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Springfield Wednesday March 8th 1833

Ordered that William F. Berry in the name of "Berry and Lincoln" have license to keep a Tavern in New Salem, to continue 12 months from this date, and that they pay one dollar in addition to six dollars heretofore paid as per Treasury receipt. And that they be allowed the following rates (viz), —

French Brandy per pint	25	Breakfast dinner & supper	25
Peach	18 3/4	Logging per night	12 1/2
Apple	12	Horse per night	25
Holland Gun	18 3/4	Single feed	12 1/2
Barnes & Co	12 1/2	Breakfast, dinner, or	25
Wine	25	Supper for stage passengers	37 1/2
Rum	18 3/4	State of Illinois } 11 Charles & John Clerk of the County Clerk in	
Whiskey	12 1/2	any other County } and for said County, on the date of record of the County Clerk, the	

who gave bond as required
by law

In testimony where of, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed the seal of said County, at my office in Springfield, the said
day of April 9th 1833



John C. Opel
County Clerk
By John Andrew Deputy

Above is shown reproduction of the license issued to Abraham Lincoln and William F. Berry to conduct tavern in Springfield, Ill. The permit was allowed on March 8, 1833 by the County Clerk. Note the prices of the liquor and the meals!!

Brooklyn, N. Y. Times

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LOCAL SOCIETY RECEIVES COPY LINCOLN LICENSE

Reproduction From Original Records
Of Saloon License Issued to Abe
Lincoln And Partner In New
Salem Interesting.

TAVERN BUILDING SHOWN

Operating under the firm name of BERRY & LINCOLN, in the little town of New Salem, Illinois, in the year 1833, the partners in business, William F. Berry and Abraham Lincoln, applied for a license to keep a "tavern" in that town for a period of twelve months. In their application they asked that they be granted a license to sell liquor to such of their patrons as should request same.

William F. Berry was undoubtedly related to the Berrys of Washington County, and probably the same William Berry who, early in the nineteenth century, contracted to furnish a supply of timber from the forests of Washington County to a resident of Harrodsburg, and failed to perform his contract. Suit being brought against him, he could not be found, and it was generally understood that he had gone "to the western country." He was next heard of as the partner of his kinsman, Abraham Lincoln, in the little Illinois town of New Salem.

The facts incident to the early life of William Berry were uncovered here by a member of the Washington County Historical Society. His conduct, as a partner of Lincoln in Illinois, appears to have been in line with his doings here before he fled this country.

The saloon license issued to Berry & Lincoln bears date March 6, 1833. To procure the license the partners were required to give bond in the penal sum of three hundred dollars. By the terms of the bond they were "to be of good behaviour," and "observe all of the laws of the State relative to tavern keepers."

The license not only authorized Berry & Lincoln to sell liquors but it also fixed the rates they were permitted to charge. These rates were as follows:

French Brandy per ½ pint	.25
Peach Brandy per ½ pint	.18¾
Apple Brandy per ½ pint	.12
Holland Gin per ½ pint	.18¾
Wine per ½ pint	.25
Rum per ½ pint	.18¾
Whiskey per ½ pint	.12½

In accomodating guests at meals or overnight, the tavern keepers were obligated to charge specified rates as follows:

Breakfast, dinner & supper	.25
Lodging per night	.12½
Horse per night	.25
Single feed	.12½
Breakfast, dinner, or	
Supper for Stagepassangers	.37½

The reproduction from the original records of the County Clerk of Sangamon County, Illinois, presented the Washington County Historical Society, includes the license, the bond of Berry & Lincoln, and a small picture of the building as it stood in 1908, in which Abraham Lincoln conducted the tavern in 1833.

